In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 16, 17 and 22-28, without prejudice. The status of all pending claims is as follows:

1 – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) An illumination device for illuminating a display area of an active matrix type liquid crystal display device, comprising:

at least one light source capable of changing light emission brightness;

at least one light-emitting area for emitting light from the light source;

a light source power supply circuit for switching between a maximum lighting state in which the light source is made to emit light at a specified maximum brightness and an intermediate lighting state in which the light source is made to emit light at a specified intermediate brightness lower than the maximum brightness;

a first light source unit including a first light guide plate and a first light source disposed at an end thereof, for mainly illuminating a first light-emitting area and supplying part of light to an adjacent second light-emitting area; and

a second light source unit laminated on the first light source unit and including a second light guide plate and a second light source disposed at an end thereof, for mainly illuminating the second light-emitting area and supplying part of light to the adjacent first light-emitting area,

wherein the first light guide plate is disposed in the first and the second light-emitting areas, and the second light guide plate is disposed in only the first light-emitting area.

8. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 7, further comprising:

a third light source unit including a third light guide plate and a third light source disposed at an end thereof, for mainly illuminating a third light-emitting area and supplying part of light to an adjacent fourth light-emitting area; and

a fourth light source unit laminated on the third light source unit and including a fourth light guide plate and a fourth light source disposed at an end thereof, for mainly illuminating the fourth light-emitting area and supplying part of light to the adjacent third light-emitting area.

9. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 8, wherein

the third light guide plate is disposed in the third and the fourth light-emitting areas, and

the fourth light guide plate is disposed in only the fourth light-emitting area.

10. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 9, wherein the first light guide plate and the fourth light guide plate are disposed on a same plane, and

the second light guide plate and the third light guide plate are disposed on a same plane.

11. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 10, further comprising:

a transmission diffused plate disposed above the first to the fourth illumination areas; and

a light mixing area disposed between the transmission diffused plate and the first to the fourth illumination areas.

12. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 11, wherein the light mixing area is a space or a transparent member having a thickness of 0.5 mm to 10 mm.

13. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 10, wherein a double-sided reflection plate for performing regular reflection or diffuse reflection is disposed between opposite end parts of the second light guide plate and the third light guide plate.

14. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 13, wherein a portion between the opposite end parts of the second light guide plate and the third light guide plate is formed into a Λ shape opening to a rear surface side.

15. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 14, wherein when refractivity of a light guide substance is n, an apex angle θ of the Λ shape satisfies a relation of $\theta \leq 180° - 4 \times \sin^{-1}(1/n)$.

16 - 55. (Cancelled)